

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 Canceled

9. (Currently Amended) An antibiotic compound β -keto aliphatic acid ester isolated from *Bacillus sp.* IICT 001 and possessing the following spectral properties

UV max (MeOH) : 225

^1H NMR CDCl_3 (80 MHz): 0.88 t (CH_3); 1.25 s, br (CH_2) $_n$; 2.16s (COCH_2); 3.68 s(COOCH_3) IR. $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{CHCl}_3)$: cm^{-1} 1730 (ester), 1670 (Carbonyl), wherein the antibiotic compound is made by a process comprising:

preparing an at least 3 to 4 day old culture broth of *Bacillus sp.* with a medium comprising soya; extracting the resulting culture medium with a solvent at a temperature between 20°C and 45°C and a pH between 4.5 and 8.0; purifying the medium with a solvent by chromatography; and eluting with the same solvent to obtain the antimicrobial compound.

10. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a β -keto aliphatic acid ester isolated from *Bacillus sp.* IICT 001 and possessing the following spectral properties

UV max (MeOH) : 225

^1H NMR CDCl_3 (80 MHz): 0.88 t (CH_3); 1.25 s, br (CH_2) $_n$; 2.16s (COCH_2); 3.68 s(COOCH_3) IR. $\nu_{\text{max}}(\text{CHCl}_3)$: cm^{-1} 1730 (ester), 1670 (Carbonyl) in admixture with a therapeutically acceptable carrier wherein the β -keto aliphatic acid ester is made by a process comprising:

preparing an at least 3 to 4 day old culture broth of *Bacillus sp.* with a medium comprising soya; extracting the resulting culture medium with a solvent at a temperature between 20°C and 45°C and a pH between 4.5 and 8.0; purifying the

medium with a solvent by chromatography; and eluting with the same solvent to obtain the β -keto aliphatic acid ester.